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The author sees the United States in gravest peril. He believes our public-school system, our government, and our very religious freedom are threatened by the steady inroads of the Catholic hosts. Already he sees astute Catholic politicians tightening their grip upon the political parties, laying plans for a Catholic President, and boldly planning, under the Pope's guidance, to make America Catholic.

Social Messages: The New Sanctification.

By Charles W. Barnes. New York: Methodist Book Concern, 1915. Pp. 100. \$0.50.

A plea for the combination of personal and social religion. Only as the modern church proclaims personal salvation through Christlike character and social salvation through the quickening and the continuous education of the public conscience can it hope to fill modern life, modern institutions, with the spirit of the Master. Illustrations are drawn from the life-work of Kingsley, Maurice, and Robertson on the one hand, and from various socialistic movements on the other. In the presentation of this old-new gospel the modern minister can find room for all his powers.

"My Christ." By Carl D. Case. Philadelphia: Griffith & Rowland Press, 1915. Pp. 169.

This is a simple story of Jesus' career and teaching. It is based upon a harmonistic arrangement of the four Gospels, aiming to give a sympathetic interpretation of Jesus' life as a whole. Dr. Case's purpose is excellent; his rendering of the various scenes and conversations is helpful. But the author has not attempted any critical valuation of the sources.

Mysticism and Modern Life. By John Wright Buckham. New York: Abingdon Press, 1915. Pp. 256. \$1.00.

Discussions of mysticism are the order of the day. Professor Buckham has given us a book that meets a need. He considers his subject primarily in reference to the life of the present generation. The book falls into three parts: "New Forms," "Tests," and "Values of Mysticism." Professor Buckham believes that mysticism is not an exclusive religious gift reserved only for a favored few, but in some form is available for every one who will cultivate the capacity for it. He holds that anyone "who has, or believes he has, a direct experience of God is to that extent a mystic." An important chapter is devoted to "Health Mysticism." He holds that the church has made a critical mistake in trying to propagate itself

rather than having manifested such a fundamental interest in all humanity as to make its ministry necessary to practical life. The new health mysticism needed today, therefore, is "a new influx of love." When this mysticism of the heart becomes sound and controlling, there will be a new temper of hope and health among Christians. The practical chapters on "Lessons from the Mystics" and "Mysticism and Modern Society" are sane and wholesome. This book is heartily to be commended to all who seek to know the way in which God is to be appropriated and his power made effective in human life.

The Universe as Pictured in Milton's "Paradise Lost." By William Fairfield Warren. New York: Abingdon Press, 1915. Pp. 80. \$0.75.

Readers of Dante and Milton know how important is the background of cosmology to the comprehension of these writings. Professor Warren has done a genuine service to all careful readers in putting clearly and concisely the ten main points of Milton's cosmology, adding a discussion of certain obscure points, and furnishing ten charts explanatory of the universe of *Paradise Lost*. A short chapter appeals for the use of the imagination in attempting to think one's self into this ancient world, and shows what rewards are in store for one who will earnestly seek to understand the ancient thought of the material universe. The pages are rather thickly set with technical terms like "quadrifurcate" and "quadriune." The little book is essential to an adequate study of Milton.

The Survival of the Unfit. By Philip Wendell Crannell, D.D. New York: Doran, 1915. Pp. 203. \$1.00.

President Crannell, of the Kansas City Baptist Theological Seminary, has evidently been for some time a contributor of editorials to the *Sunday School Times*. He has now gathered thirty-two of these into a volume somewhat loosely bound together by the common purpose of interpreting the development of character through Christian faith, this activity being carried on in relationships with God, with one's self, and with one's fellows. It requires a peculiar genius to be able to present a truth in editorial form and have it thoroughly genuine and direct. President Crannell overcomes this difficulty in a remarkable degree. The title, so necessary in an editorial if it is going to lead the reader from his first observation to a careful examination of the subjects, is almost always seized upon by the author with great skill. The editorial giving the title to the book is an example in point, although there is nothing

new about it, and one turns almost instinctively to the sermon, "The Survival of the Unfittest," by Dr. Aked in *The Courage of the Coward*. Indeed these two furnish an interesting contrast between the sermon and the editorial. The author has a fine mastery of antithesis, and many of his sentences stick in the mind because of their pithiness. He closes an editorial, for example, as follows: "Not 'salvation without character,' which is absurd; nor 'character without salvation,' which is impossible; nor 'salvation by character,' which is a tautology, but 'character by salvation,' the triumph of God's grace in the life of man" (p. 24). The author's quotations are generally well chosen and accurate, but he makes a serious slip with Browning on p. 127. We shall pick up the book many times to read one of its sections for a tonic.

The Story of Our Bible. By Harold B. Hunting.
New York: Scribner, 1915. Pp. xii+290.
\$1.50.

Mullum in parvo well describes this compact story of the growth and contents of the Bible. In popular form it treats of translations and interpretations, of versions and revisions, of papyri and archaeology, of quests for accuracy and triumphs of true scholars, of the romance of missionary use of the Bible, and of various other subjects too numerous to mention. Not only the form and use of the Bible but the contents of many parts of it are presented in attractive style. The book tells of bards and ballad singers, of hymn-books within hymn-books, of misfortunes and the peace that passeth understanding, of comforters and guides and heroes, of reformers and religious statesmen. It gives chapters to "What Is True Christianity," "A Spiritual Gospel," and "Jesus, the Divine Savior." Beautiful illustrations abound; and the book can scarcely fail to prove attractive through some of its varied forms of presentation. Many people today may not care to undertake serious study of the Bible, but some of these same people would be charmed by this popularization of biblical material. The volume deserves a wide circulation.

Variety in the Prayer Meeting. By William T. Ward. New York: Methodist Book Concern, 1916. Pp. 192. \$0.50.

The title of this moderate-priced book indicates its contents. After considering the place of the prayer meeting in the Christian church, sections are given to elements which contribute to good prayer meetings. The room, the leader,

the opening exercises, the lesson, testimony, music, and prayer are considered. Special prayer meetings for various times and seasons and a chapter on "Some Other Things Worth While" cover a long list of interesting topics. Ideas about the use of printed matter and publicity methods are among the attractive parts of the book. An extra large number of hints and methods are presented and perhaps include some ways of procedure which might not appeal to all kinds of people. But out of the multitude of suggestions leaders of prayer meetings can find some good ideas for their work.

The Forks of the Road. By Washington Gladden. New York: Macmillan, 1916. Pp. 138. \$0.50.

Can Christianity tolerate war and national preparation for war? Can Christians truly be followers of the Christ and yet encourage militarism? Dr. Gladden, in this prize essay, gives a most emphatic negative answer to these questions. His arguments are somewhat rambling, not wholly conclusive, and are to be praised more for their sincerity than on account of the actual explication of the broad international problems which are necessarily involved in any such discussion.

Religion and the Mind. By George Richmond Grose. New York: Abingdon Press, 1915. Pp. 112. \$0.75.

A brief and timely word for young people—college students in particular—who are finding serious difficulty in readjusting their lives to modern ways of thinking. Out of a broad experience, President Grose advises his young friends to be absolutely fearless in the study of all religious subjects, assured that honesty, with reverence, invariably leads one into the life of religious certainty.

Why Men Pray. By Charles Lewis Slattery. New York: Macmillan, 1916. Pp. 118. \$0.75.

Most treatises upon this vital subject are so hackneyed, so foreign to the experience of the everyday practical soul, that we turn from them with weariness. Dr. Slattery has succeeded in pointing out the highway to God so plainly that even a child may not lose the way. He quickens one's faith in himself; he makes prayer a life of vast, yet attainable, possibilities; he whets our appetites for experimental knowledge of this deepest of all realities.